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Declares the Seizure of the Sabine

A dispatch from London yesterday says: Special dispatches from Washington this morning purported to give full details of instructions issued by Secretary Hay, telling the United States ambassador here, Mr. Joseph H. Choate, to make representations to the British government regarding the eizure of the British steamer Sabine, from New York, January 4, with a miscellaneous cargo, which was captured by the British gunboat Thrush and taken to Delagoa Bay and to make representations that Great Britain's action is regarded as "unneces-sary and as seriously interfering with trade."

It is admitted by the State Department It is admitted by the State Department officials that instructions have been given to Ambassador Choate at London to call the attention of the British government to the seizure of the British steamer Sabine with a cargo from New York. Secretary Hay's dispatch to the ambassador, it is said, is not a protest, but Mr. Choate is directed to make representations to the British government, which, in effect, indicate that the United States regards her action as a serious trade interference. The department at Washington is seeking to prevent as far as the exigencies of war permit interference with American shipping and with the commerce in which those inand with the commerce in which those in terests may be engaged.

NOT FIT TO RULE THEMSELVES.

Prof. Worcester's Views of the Capabilities of Filipinos. Dr. R. C. Worcester of the Philippine commission lectured at the University of Wisconsin Wednesday night upon the Philippines. After describing his experience in his travels about the islands, Prof. Worces-"Where the natives are somewhat ac-

quainted with the whites through Spanish occupation, the rule may aptly be applied that the morality of the people increases as the square of the distance from Spanish as the square of the distance from Spanish occupation increases. Many of these island people have not yet arrived at the dignity of a tribal organization. This, however, applies only to the uncivilized people."

In regard to slavery in Sulu, Prof. Worcester admitted that it existed to a considerable extent, but did not think absolute prohibition would remedy it. He advised that it be gradually rooted out by providing against any addition to the slave class by birth or otherwise.

Continuing, Prof. Worcester said:

"The agriculture of the people is still in a very rude state, and it is probable that there is not a single modern plow that can turn a furrow in this whole group. There is a great source of wealth there in lumber if properly developed." At present there are not over two steam sawmills in operation. With the introduction of modern methods in this, as well as in sugar and tobacco culture, considerable returns may be expected.

"The Filipino has many good points, but has no experience whatever in the affairs of government. Besides this, he is

"The Filipino has many good points, but has no experience whatever in the affairs of government. Besides this, he is, as a rule, intensely ignorant. Self-government is absolutely impossible. The only sensible course is to gradually increase their rights and privileges."

Charges for Sleeping Cars. Representative Fitzgerald of Massachu-setts has introduced a bill limiting the charges on sleeping cars to 50 cents per hundred miles for a lower berth and 25 cents per hundred miles for an upper berth.

A proviso permits a total charge of \$1.25 for a lower and \$1 for an upper berth.

GOSSIP FROM GOTHAM OPPOSE THE PLANS THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Swell Society Now Organized Into a East Washington Citizens Against Various Views as to Its Merits and Sort of Trust. Pennsylvania R. R. Bill.

THE BANKS AND THE CURRENCY BILL REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS PARENTS AND TEACHERS ON THE ISSUES

Steps to Secure a Team of Noted Largely Attended Meeting Dis- Are the Advanced Principles of cusses the Subject.

> Resolutions Adopted. Resolutions from the committee on parks and spaces were also adopted after an

amendment proposed by Mr. O. B. Hallan

was inserted, stating that the East Wash-

Discussion of the Subject. Previous to the adoption of the report Dr. A. Patten read some extracts from the re-

port of Gen. Wilson, Col. Bingham and Col. Allen of the engineer department on the

subject of the use of the parks by the Penn-

sylvania railroad, as printed in The Star of Thursday last, and said they represented his sentiments exactly. He predicted that in the course of twenty-five or thirty

se of the people. Mr. M. I. Weller said he heartily indorsed

Mr. M. I. Weller said he heartily indorsed the reports of both committees. He urged the appointment of a special committee to present the views of the association on the subject to the members of the District committee in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Mr. B. W. Clark said he did not think the Pennsylvania Railroad Commany should

of Representatives.

Mr. B. W. Clark said he did not think the Pennsylvania Railroad Company should be given a foot of ground in the District of Columbia. They were not, he declared, entitled to it and were able to pay for all the property they needed. He thought the association ought to go on record as being decidedly opposed to having any part of any park taken for railroad purposes.

Favored Reasonable Facilities.

Mr. Ordway remarked that he favored

ving the railroad company any reasonable

facilities, and referred to the fact that in

Boston the people allowed the railroad companies to run a tunnel under their pride, the Common. The time was coming, he said, when it would be necessary for all

trains to come in at a depot on one side of the city and depart from another on the other side. He was opposed as much as anyone to the disfigurement of the parks, but he did not think that any unnecessary obstacles ought to be put in the way of real railway progress.

eal railway progress. Mr. Solberg said that the interest of East

Washington is centered in Garfield Park, and he explained by means of a map how,

lone at the next meeting of the East Wash

GEN. WOOD EXTENDS FRANCHISE.

Cuban-Americans Will Be Allowed to

A dispatch from Havana says: Governor

General Wood has decided to issue an order that persons, Cubans by birth, who re-

years the population of Washington be probably 1.000,000, and that all the be probably 1.000,000, and that all the park here would then be urgently needed for the

EPIDEMIC OF GRIP GROUNDS FOR OBJECTION

A special meeting of the East Washins NEW YORK, February 22, 1900. ton Citizens' Association was held Tuesday The social season just closing has in many respects been dull, but in other ways evening at Baum's Hall, corner of 4th and East Capitol streets, for the purpose of gayety has been almost entirely considering the steam railroad question, confined to one or more sets, and this di with particular reference to the bill now before Congress in which the Pennsylvania vision is all the more marked as the years go on. No longer can this very wealthy set be called the "Exclusives," the "Howl-ing Howling Swells," or the "Four Hunrailroad Company asks various privileges in around the city. President T. W. Smith occupied the chair, and Mr. A. F. dred." All these terms have become trite Sperry was secretary. The attendance was nd are considered provincial. The wealthy unusually large.

Mr. H. K. Simpson, chairman of the comset, which dominates New York society, is mittee on steam railroads, submitted a re port, which was adopted, and which de clared that the association was opposed to the diversion of any portion of the public parks of the city for allen purposes, beleving that they should be retained in their

summer. Many of these people have coun try seats elsewhere, and are frequently identified with Tuxedo, with the upper Hudson, with Hempstead and Meadow Brook, and even with far-off Bar Harbor But at some time in the summer all of them can be found at Newport, and consequently the title of the Newport set is the best which can be applied to them. Mrs. Astor, Mrs. Ogden Mills, Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish, Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, the Vanderblits and latterly Mrs. George Gould and Mrs. John R. Drexel, may be said to constitute a trust or syndicate—everything is on the co-operative plan these days—which governs social amusements in this town. Just as the theaters of New York are controlled by a combination, so are the great fortunes banded together for a social common interest. There are, it is true, dissensions within this company, but its leaders and members stand together when there arises any question of great social import.

Bank View of the Currency Bill. can be found at Newport, and consequently

Revolver Shots.

Bank View of the Currency Bill. While bank officers are reluctant to dis cuss the proposed bond-refunding features of the currency bill, which was recently passed by the Senate, they are by no means it a very thorough study with a view to aking advantage of the terms proposed by Secretary Gage and incorporated in the bill. A large number have been quietly substituting for their bonds on deposit with was inserted, stating that the East Washington Citizens' Association was opposed to the appropriation of any of the parks of the city for any private or public uses other than that for which they have been reserved; that in the matter of the proposed changes in the line of the Pennsylvania raliroad it was the opinion of this association that a feasible and unobjectionable route could be found south of Garfield Park, leaving the tunnel at 4th street, and that the association is especially opposed to allowing the Pennsylvania raliroad to occupy the surface of that portion of Garfield Park east of 1st street and New Jersey avenue, and that if it should be determined by Congress that the railroad tracks should run through that space, it should be beneath the surface by a continuation of the proposed tunnel to the side of said streets, the tunnel being mounded over in part, if required, by the topography of the surface. the Secretary other bonds which promise them a better return in the final exchange for the 2 per cents. The large bond house are busy making purchases and effecting exchanges with the great financial institutions having government bonds among their assets. To such institutions one issue of government bonds is as good as another provided they are exchanged on the same interest basis. The bond houses know where blocks of 4s and 5s may be acquired where blocks of 4s and 5s may be acquired in exchange for 3s, and by paying a slight bonus it is easy to bring about the substitution of the 3s for the other issues. The Treasury Department also permits the substitution of one class of bonds for another without detriment to the bank making the exchange. The only difficulty in the situation appears to be that there is temptation to banks to withdraw their 3s in order to sell them, without substituting other bonds for them, thus reducing their circulation. With money so plentiful as it now is, there could be no objection to this course were it not for the fact that the law forbids a bank retiring circulation to receive any increase of its circulation for a period of six months. If the rates of interest advance in the spring and money becomes scarce the evidence of the restriction may be felt.

The Annual Dog Show.

The annual dog show of the Westmin-ster Kennel Club will begin at the Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, and will be ontinued for four days. The show will be the largest one as to the number of exhibits that the club has ever had, there being something over 2,100 entries, as against 2,000 last year, the largest number in the history of the club up to that time. Many of the dogs are imported for the how, and some close contests are expected between them and the American dogs which will compete with them. Richard Croker, jr., and Frank Croker, sons of the Tammany leader, will exhibit some exceptionally valuable dogs. These dogs were secured in England for the Croker boys by John Whalen, a well-known dog fancier, whom they sent to England to purchase for them. The dog most prized is the champion bull bitch Petramosse, fifty pounds weight, who has won more than one hunhibits that the club has ever had, there weight, who has won more than one dred first prizes, of which many were fifty guineas each. She has never been beaten

To Select a Revolver Team. To form an organization for the primary purpose of selecting an American team to take part in the proposed Franco-American revolver match by cable in June, a meeting of amateur revolver experts has been ing of amateur revolver experts has been called for March 5. This is the outcome of a gathering of noted shots, recently held here. Dr. R. H. Sayre, Dr. C. T. Adams and Capt. J. C. Summers have been appointed a committee to arrange for the meeting and issue the call. By this committee invitations have been mailed to every revolver shot of national reputation in the United States, either to be present at the meeting or to communicate to the chairman meeting or to communicate to the chairman of the committee his wishes regarding mempership in the proposed organization. It is believed that if an organization be decided apon at the meeting on March 5 the Amer-can Revolver Club or National Revolver

Trap Shooters' Program.

The program of the interstate trap ican handicap of 1900 and its accompany ed and will be sent out during the curren

week. The handicap of 1900 is the eighth one shot under the auspices of the association and will be decided on the new grounds at Interstate Park, Queens, Long Island. The handicap committee will meet in the Astor House, this city, Wednesday, March 28, four days after the closing of entries. The allowances, however, will not be announced until April I.

The list of entries already received contains the names of some of the most noted wing shots in the world. The back-mark men will doubtless be J. A. R. Elliott, Capt. Jack Brewer, Dr. Carver, and probably one or two of the stars from the west. Thos. Marshall, mayor of Kiethsburg, Ill., who won the handicap in 1897 and last year, will be among the crackajacks from the land of the setting sun. Among the women who will compete will be Mrs. Shattuck, who proved in the last two tournaments that she could shoot better than some of her opponents of the sterner sex, and Mrs. "Milt" Lindsley, better known as "Wanda," who has also made an enviable reputation with the shotgun.

Epidemic of Grip. According to the officers of the charities department, there is an epidemic of grip in this city. For the last ten days cases have een treated by the score, and there is a constantly growing number each day. The average has been ten cases a day. Belle

average has been ten cases a day. Bellevue, the Metropolitan and the City Hospitals have a large number of cases, the wards for pulmonary diseases in all of them being filled, and cots in other wards are being used. Besides the cases of grip, there is an unusually large number of persons seeking relief for bronchitis and other pulmonary troubles.

An exhibition of roses—the first national show of the American Rose Society—will be held in the Eden Musee Winter Garden on March 27, 28 and 29. The American Rose Society is of recent origin, and was organized to extend the cultivation of "the sweetest blossom, of spring the fairest flower." The coming exhibition will be the first of prominent women have signified their approval of it by becoming patronesses.

At a meeting of the republicans of the ourteenth district Wednesday night Mr. W. Calvin Chase and Dr. J. E. Jones were in-dorsed as delegates to the national repub-lican convention of 1900.

Defects.

Teaching Prematurely Applied?

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Evening Star: I as a parent deplore the contest nov

going on in regard to our schools. Back of the objections lies the animus of the outs. Some of them seem to be as old Hans who told his son to take a bag of corn to the mill. When the boy started Hans said: "Have you a stone in the other end?" The boy said: "No, fader, I divide the corn." Hans said: "Put in the stone Do you think you know more than your father and grandfather?"

There are doubtless defects in our school system, if there were not the millennium would be with us. These can be corrected without sowing discord and insubordinatio in the ranks. Let us have fairness and in the various competitions our High entirety for the general use and benefit of School graduates get the honors. entirety for the general use and benefit of all the residents of the city. The report continued as follows:

"We believe that the Baltimore and Po-tomac Railroad Company in the proposed bill, Senate 1929, should be compelled to lay their tracks upon ground acquired by them by purchase, and that instead of the proposed trute, as provided for in said bill. teachers are efficient and worthy. Don't make a poor man "hustle" to give his make a poor man "hustle" to give his child a chance above the R's. The well-todo pay the taxes; let them contribute some of their good things to help the poor man's child to get rid of the "hoe" in this age of hustle, nerve and education.

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

proposed route, as provided for in said bill, they should run parallel to Virginia avenue on the squares lying south of said avenue, thus accomplishing the same purpose as is attained by the present bill, and saving the confiscation of public property for corpor-ate use. To the Editor of The Evening Star:

Although Commissioner Ross has declared that the school trustees are responsible for the present school system in the District, yet the impression will be generally maintained that Superintendent Powell' is its inspiration. As far as I have been able to discern after a somewhat close observation of about ten years Superintendent Powell's purpose is to train the hand, eye and brain. He would make children reasoning instead of memorizing confiscation of public property for corporate use.

"That, if for topographical reasons it is not feasible to maintain the tracks of the said Baltimore and Potomac railroad, as suggested in previous resolution, we request that the proposed tunnel which, under the present bill, ends at 2d street southeast, be continued and maintained as a closed tunnel to the east side of New Jersey avenue southeast."

Resolutions Adopted. children reasoning instead of memorizing animals. He would make them observing

animals. He would make them observing instead of thoughtless, he would make them deft instead of bungling.

The beauty and desirableness of such a system are self-evident. How much better to make our children reasoning little philosophers than to let them go on in their old way, learning rules of spelling and graimmar. How much better to show a child how words are built up from roots and stems and let him learn in that way how to spell them than to force him to memorize long and untintelligible words. There were countless arguments in favor of the new system, and it is no wonder that many writers on education favored them. Superintendent Powell will find many parents who approve his purpose and indorse his system.

indorse his system.
Yet there is widespread discontent at the work and results of the system—pupils are sent to the High Schools who cannot spell to their complex com correctly, who cannot write their own lan-guage grammatically and who have the se are not merely the stupid or back ward pupils, but those who pass their ex ward pupils, but those who pass their examinations and receive good marks. So much time has been given to the study of the geologic formation of the Potomac valley that pupils cannot name the Presidents of the United States; the great names

dinner table is cleared the school books are brought out and until bedtime lessons are pored over. One night in the week perhaps can be given to improving the mind, every other night is the treadmil; no time for music, for liferature, for other means of mental cultu.: The demands of the system are insatiate.

The reason that so much time is taken to learn the lessons is not that the lessons are too long, but that the studies are not suited to the age of the pupil. Once in a while a precocious child will be found who thrives on the system, but the exception is not a signboard pointing to success. Because High School studies cannot be given with profit to sixth grade pupils is no argument against those studies in the High Schools. Mr. Powell's ideas are excellent when properly applied, but when prematurely put into erly applied, but when prematurely put int practice are worse than useless. S.

To the Editor of The Evening Star-

and he explained by means of a map how, in his judgment, the railway company can attain the object sought by it so as to avoid taking any part of Garfield Park. He was very anxious, he asserted, that grade crossings should be abolished and he thought the present tunnel could be extended as far as necessary with no more curvature than the tunnel already has. If the railroad company got possession of Garfield Park, he said, it was undoubtedly their intention to build a great round house, yard and shops there. It is an easy matter to tear down and pull to pieces; to lay blame upon this one and that, but to right the wrongs is not so easy. Too much freedom has been allowed to those in charge of school affairs. They, no doubt, are doing what to them seems for the general good, but they are overloading the school system with ideas and theories, and they are forgetting that our children are not machines on which all sorts of experiments may be tried. Too much is undertaken in our lower grades, at least. While not advocating the good old ways of bygone days as superior to methods now in there.

The chair appointed as the committee provided for in Mr. Weller's motion, Messrs. H. K. Simpson, Dr. A. Patten, M. I. Weller, T. Solberg and J. W. Babson. By unanimous request the name of President H. K. Simpson, Dr. A. Patten, M. I. Weller, T. Solberg and J. W. Babson. By unanimous request the name of President Smith was added to the committee.

Mr. Martin of the Northeast Washington Citizens' Association, who was present, asked that the association take some action relative to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company's bill, which is also before Congress, and was assured that this would be done at the next meeting of the Est Wesh. bygone days as superior to methods now in use, yet, I think, there should be more oral reading in the second and third grades Especially in the fourth grade pupils are expected to read fluently and intelligently such statements as these.

Especially in the fourth grade pupils are expected to read fluently and intelligently such statements as these:

"There are several settlements in the United States which are not sufficiently developed to warrant their being admitted to the Union. Each of these settlements has a representative in the national Congress to see that its rights are not infringed upon."

A child of nine years had this kind of reading to regale her mother each morning while having her hair combed, preparatory

while having her hair combed, preparatory for school.

Spelling and writing, of course, are essentials closely connected with the reading and combinations of numbers following.

These studies being the foundation stones ought to have most of the time devoted to school work. No doubt the methods pursued these days are much more interesting than formerly, but there is danger that methods are made more prominent than results. Home work, sewing, dressmaking, cooking and manual training should be elective on the part of parents for their children, Most parents have work at home for their children, and it is not easy to find time for it when school work is on hand. The five hours devoted to school work at the school building is enough for children under fourteen at least. nounced their nationality during the Span-ish regime in order to become American citizens, but who are now ready to fulfill the required conditions, may vote at the the required conditions, may vote at the coming elections. He also points out that it is generally recognized that these men became Americans only for the purpose of self-protection, and that they now desire to resume their Cuban nationality as soon as they can legally do so. This order will affect more than 30,000, and it may result in a complete change in the constitution of political parties, although it is believed that the Cuban Americans will be fairly scattered among those existing. the Cuban Americans was tered among those existing. There has been some talk of forming a Americans. Those who advocate this be-lieve that such organization could control the politics of the island, because it would hold the balance of power and would wield a fowerful lever in the future. The Cuban Americans are for the most part wall day. under fourteen at least.

ONE FOR REFORM. To the Editor of The Evening Star:

In the hearing before the public school committee, as reported by The Star, Gen. Spear. a member of the school board, said: "I don't think there is any desirable end secured in teaching the alphabet in any particular order." On that point I wish to ask a few questions. Of what use would a dictionary be to a person who does not know the particular order of the alphabet, in which a dictionary is arranged? How would be able to find the words that he might need and their meanings? If he wished to read up a subject beginning with "A" in the encyclopedia, where would he look for it—in the first or the last or the middle volume? He might naturally take up the first book, but in what part of the first volume would he look and how long would it take him to find the word "Axletree?" How would he be able to find in the index of any book readily the particular subject upon which he might want information or desire to read? How would he be able to find the name of a post office in a "Postal Guide?" Other questions quite as pertent as these will be suggested to the Americans are for the most part well edu-cated, and should such an organization be formed it would unquestionably be exceedingly influential.

The second meeting convened to organize public opposition to the assumption by Mgr. Sbaretti of the functions of bishop of Havana, on the ground that he is a foreigner, was held last evening. It was then stated that, in consequence of the "machinations of the Jesuits," women had been induced to send Mgr. Sbaretti telegrams congratulating him upon his appointment and his forthcoming appearance here.

In view of the impossibility of preventing the arrival of Mgr. Sbaretti, it was decided to call a mass meeting to be held on the square in front of the cathedral a week after his coming, to protest against his last or the turally take part of the and how long word "Axleto find in the particular ant information would he be st office in a one quite as gested to the to call a mass meeting to be held on the square in front of the cathedral a week after his coming, to protest against his entrance upon his ecclesiastical duties. It was also decided that committees should be organized throughout the island to work for the "isolation" of Mgr. Sharetti in case it should be impossible to secure his

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.

WINTER RESORTS.

WINTER RESORTS.

HOTEL LURAY,

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ney are obliged to cram the undeveloped ninds of the poor defenseless children.

minds of the poor , defenseless children.

"I now ask that my son may be taught such knowledge as he must soon apply practically in the ordinary business transactions of every-day life; that he be no longer detained in the seventh grade because he does not understand "Powell's Analysis," but that he be permitted to enter the eighth grade, so that he be not lenger debrived of instruction in proportion, percentage, mensuration, etc., and that he be taught in such a manner and by the use of such methods as will not injure him."

As to the propriety of the above request, an intelligent public should decide. Is it

an intelligent public should decide. Is it not a fact, however, that nonsense and fads

not a fact, however, that nonsense and fads meet with more tolerance in our systems of public education than elsewhere? And why? When the temperature of our rooms is unusual, the janitor is immediately informed of our discomfort, and when the coffee is too strong or the cook has taken some short cut in her preparation of the steak, she is relieved of her duties; but because mismanagement in our educational systems does not manifest itself to our senses, nor affect us directly in any manner, the disadvantages and the sufferings of our children are unnoticed until the most

ner, the disadvantages and the sufferings of our children are unnoticed until the most

serious consequences have resulted.

It is fairly presumable that the senatorial

It is fairly presumable that the senatorial committee which has been appointed in consequence of many expressions of disastisfaction with our public schools has not been created to accomplish a neat job of whitewashing; therefore, now that we have an opportunity to be heard by a superior authority, let us inquire and investigate and then report fairly, truthfully, and without prejudice, whether or not authorities and conditions prevail which to any extent deprive our children of a proper education. Cool deliberation, practical experience in

Cool deliberation, practical experience in educational work and the highest intelli-

gence are now loudly called for by existing conditions in our schools. The counsels of extremists and soreheads must be avoided; otherwise, the opposite of beneficial results will be accomplished.

The writer believes that there is much room for improvement in our public schools. But he also believes that none of the branches in curriculum should be eliminated; and that at least 50 per cent of the theories and practices now in vogue are excellent and that some of the complaints against the schools which have obtained publicity are not very well founded.

A PATRON.

gence are now loudly called for by existing

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THROUGH PULLMAN TRAINS DAILY FROM WASHINGTON TO

The best of service maintained from all the principal cities of the North, South and West,

mind of the reader. This shows the fallacy of the idea which prevails with Washington school teachers, that whatever is novel in teaching is in the line of progress and better than the old system. I had to teach my children their alphabet over again after they had been in school a year.

N. B. MILLIKEN.

To the Editor of The Eveniag Star:

It must be patent to the dullest intellect that our teachers have not enough to de Each day means a large expenditure of the people's money, and these public servants should earn their salaries. An excellent scheme (evidently with this end in view has been recently inaugurated in the imposition (I use the word advisedly) on the teachers of the work of ascertaining and tabulating certain data with reference to the physical condition of their pupils. This is certainly a move in the right direction. That it has proved a success in helping the teachers earn their salaries not one of them will deny. But it is not sufficiently comprehensive. While supplementing the daily work of five hours by five additional, it still leaves the teacher time to eat, to read in The Evening Star the flattering encomiums of the Congress Heights Assosiation and to sleep after, thanking the Lord for the heestimable privilege of being one of the profession. It behooves the management, therefore, to enlarge the scope of this beneficent scheme. As the list now stands, it covers only such items as the child's weight, age, height, chest measurement, hip measurement, pulsation, respiration and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour to the proposition of the profession are done the profession and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour to the proposition of the profession and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour to the proposition of the profession and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour to the proposition and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour services and the trash wi

read in The Evening Star the flattering encomiums of the Congress Heights Assosiation and to sleep after, thanking the Lord for the inestimable privilege of being one of the profession. It behooves the management, therefore, to enlarge the scope of this beneficent scheme. As the list now stands, it covers only such items as the child's weight, age, height, chest measurement, hip measurement, pulsation, respiration and twenty-five or thirty similar points. The crying need of the hour is more statistics, more measurement of the child in his length, breadth and circumvalley that pupils cannot name the Presidents of the United States; the great names of American history are little more than names to them; they have studied all about civil government, but they do not know how their own government was formed. They have had a smattering of many things; they have studied faithfully many hours; they learned their lessons day by day. But a confused jumble of half-forgotten facts and theories is all that remains of their years of study. This is not an exaggeration. It is merely a paraphrase of what an eighth-grade teacher said to my wife last summer.

The defect in the system lies in its application. What should be applied to the High Schools is put to work in the sixth or seventh grades. What would be fitting for those grades is also applied prematurely. An idea, excellent in itself, is misplaced. It is a good thing to learn how words are built up from roots. It does increase our facility in the use of words to know how to analyze them. But a child cannot be made a philologist and in the attempt will become merely a confused and stutering parrot. Children are denounced as backward merely because they are given tasks beyond their comprehension. And those children who crimson with shame at the thought of being more stupid than their associates will toil night after night, hour after hour, when they should be in bed or resting their minds with recreation. I know of one house where night after night after the ground and their comprehension. And those children who crimson with shame at the school books are brought out and until bedtime lessons are proved over. One night in the week perhaps can be given to improving the mind, every other night is the treadmill; no time. for the medical practitioner. He has only one science to master; the teacher, to meet the requirements of her calling, must be geologist, physicist, mathematician, musician, artist, historian and missionary, and all as, the immortal Dickens says, "for so much, or rather so little, a year." Why should not such a versatile worker add to her list of accomplishments the title of M. D.?

R. S. V. P.

The system of the Evening star:

The system of teaching the alphabet in the public schools of the District of Columbia is probably like the system that was formerly in use in Providence, Rhode Island. A business man of that city had occasion to employ a youth educated in the city public schools. It took the young man a long time to find a name in the the city public schools. It took the young man a long time to find a name in the telephone book or in the city directory, and he could not readily find words in the his difficulty was caused by his Ignorance of the order of the letters of the alphabet—verbum sap.

W. J. S.

To the Editor of The Evening StarThe following request was recently addressed to a gentleman who is connected with the public school system in this city:
"Miss — informs me that my son is not making satisfactory progress in the work of the school, and that he is inattentive and listless. While I regard the ultimate knowledge of all the branches said to be taught in the public schools as very desirable, I dare not overlook the fact that the tenure of my son's earthly existence is very precarious and depends upon the endurance of a very slight and weak physical constitution, and that, for this reason, the care of his health is of the utmost importance. An attempt to force the entire curriculum of these schools upon him has shown that the labor and confinement necessary thereto very soon disable him, even for the health-preserving exercises of boyish sport, and that, if we should thus disregard his physical welfare, he would shortly have no further use in this world for any of the knowledge taught in the schools. Therefore, if I were compelled to choose whether he should neglect all study that he might be able to play, or omit play that he might acquire a thorough knowledge of the entire course as prescribed and taught, I would choose that he should cease to study that he might play.

"Although it is plain to all who are acquainted with my son that he has not the physical strength to study non-essentials, To the Editor of The Evening Star-

quainted with my son that he has not the physical strength to study non-essentials, I had thought that by the exercise of care I had thought that by the exercise of care and discernment on the part of his parents and teachers he might be able to acquire such essential knowledge as would enable him to succeed in some of the less arduous avocations. But he cannot learn to spell, read, capitalize and punctuate, nor can he obtain a knowledge of arithmetic, accounts and business methods, because his precious time and limited strength must be employed in exhausting efforts to know the employed in exhausting efforts to know the erivation of words and all about prefixes derivation of words and all about prefixes and suffixes and synonyms and homonyms: to understand the useless intricacies of 'Powell's Analysis' and apply the system to difficult passages in Longfellow's Evangeline,' etc.; to know the minutest details of history, as, for instance, the different families and dialects of the Indian tribes when Columbus discovered America; to memorize poems; to learn geology, physical geography and other branches which should be deferred in the education of the most robust pupil until he should have entered the tenth grade.

Wash-a-Kie, chief of the Eastern Shos-hone Indians, died in his tepee on the Wind river reservation, in central Wyoming, Wednesday evening. He was ninety-three years of age.

years of age.
Major George S. Merrill, form

Former Member of Congress and Prominent Theatrical Manager.

H. C. MINER DIES SUDDENLY.

publicity are not very well found

Henry Clay Miner, the theatrical manager, dropped dead yesterday afternoon in his home on Riverside Drive, New York city. He was fifty-eight years old. Mr. Miner had been remarkably well all winter. and there was no warning of the end. He was in his room, preparing to go for a drive room when he fell. Mrs. Miner was the

with a florid face that suggested apoplectic Mr. Miner's estate is estimated to be worth more than \$5,000,000. While his name was always closely identified with the theatrical business, his interests were varied. He carried \$100,000 in life insurance. Recently he built a fine white gran-ite mausoleum in Greenwood cemetery, which cost \$50,000. Harry Miner, as he was

which cost \$50,000. Harry Miner, as he was known until he became a congressman, made a great deal of money in the London, Bowery and People's Theaters, on the Bowery, and Miner's Eighth Avenue Theater. Ten years ago he leased the Fifth Avenue Theater, and this is said to have been his only unprofitable theatrical venture. In 1894 he was elected to Congress and served one term.

Masonie Veterans. The Washington Masonic Veteran Asso-

ciation, at its annual business meeting at Masonic Temple, re-elected all the officers pnanimously. Noble D. Larner, president; Dr. R. B. Donaldson and E. H. Chamber-lin, vice presidents; G. Y. At Lee, secre-tary; James A. Sample, treasurer; A. W. Kelley and Geo. Z. Colison, stewards, and Active and Geo. Z. Conson, stewards, and the committee decided to hold the four-teenth annual feast on Saturday evening, 24th instant, at 7.30 o'clock, at Freund's, on 10th street, when a large gathering will participate in the banquet and listen to the cloquence of a number of distinguished guests. Last year Gen. Miles was a guest.